



GRASSROOTS NEWS AND VIEWS ON THE 2001 INAUGURATION

Civil Rights Leaders Speak Out Against Incoming Administration

Reports, lawsuit challenge Bush's claim to presidency

by Mike Burke
NYC IMC

"There is overwhelming evidence that George W. Bush did not win this election either by national popular vote or the Florida popular vote," said Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson, a Texas Democrat who is the new president of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Johnson's statement came on Jan. 6 shortly after she and a dozen other Congressional Black Caucus members stormed out of the Capitol after a failed attempt to block the counting of Florida's 25 electoral votes.

Under House rules, the electoral vote could only be debated if at least one Senator signed on to any of the 20 plus challenges that questioned the legitimacy of the Florida vote. Not one Senator supported the protests of the Congressional Black Caucus.

But the debate will spill into the streets Inauguration weekend as various civil rights groups protest the new administration.

Rev. Al Sharpton, head of the National Action Network, has organized a "Shadow Inauguration" and march in hopes it will "dramatically show the world that we're not suffering from amnesia."

"Some say that it's over, that it's time to move on," Sharpton said, with the march planned for inauguration day Jan. 20. "It's not over."

Despite the protests from African-American quarters, Bush continues to preach his compassionate conservatism mantra citing the diversity of his cabinet appointees which include three blacks -- Colin Powell as Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice as National Security Adviser, and Rod Paige as Secretary of Education.

"If that counts as racial progress, we need an immediate recount," wrote Michael Eric Dyson, author of "I May Not Get There With You: The True Martin Luther King, Jr."

For Jessie Jackson, the Supreme Court's decision not to allow a full count of Florida's vote followed a historical trend.

"Dred Scott, Plessy vs. Ferguson and last week's decision have in common the disenfranchisement by appointed judges of African-



Thousands protest Florida election results that handed George W. Bush the presidential election

Americans," said Jackson. "It is a loss of our franchise. You had intimidation of African-Americans at or near the polls by the police, thousands of ballots left uncounted, obsolete voting machines placed in targeted precincts. Where was equal protection?"

While Jackson urged the country on the night of Bush's election to "take to the streets... delegitimize Bush, discredit him, do whatever, but never accept him," he will be on the streets of Tallahassee not Washington this weekend. To the shock of his progressive followers, Jackson went back on his radical call the next day by calling the new president.

"I told him that he would have my support," Jackson told the *New York Post*.

While much of Jackson's energy has been focused on Florida, new reports have found widespread disenfranchisement of black voters in other parts of the country.

A Washington Post study found, for example, that ballots in black areas across the country were disqualified at significantly higher rates than in wealthier areas, which often use more modern

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LAWYERS FIGHT IN COURT TO PROTECT RIGHT TO PROTEST

by Gabriel Freeman
DC IMC

Legal activists from the Partnership for Civil Justice and the National Lawyer's Guild filed suit in federal court Jan. 16 to protect your right to free speech, freedom of assembly and unreasonable search and seizure.

Following preemptive strikes on convergence spaces, mass arrests designed to clear the streets of protesters in Seattle, Washington DC, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and elsewhere police forces across the country have decided the best way to control a protest is to frighten citizens into not showing up. The tactics of harassment and intimidation designed to lower protest turnout are remarkably similar to those used in Florida to lower turnout among African Americans going to rural polls.

Checkpoints have been set up where DC police officers may search and screen citizens "on a case by case basis." In addition, police have changed the restric

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Real Politics: Taking Power Back from the Politicians

by Eric Laursen
DIRECT ACTION NETWORK

When Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris sat down in front of a phalanx of corporate media not long ago and signed the papers certifying that George W. Bush had "won" her state's Electoral College votes last month, she also put the final stroke to a year of protest that exposed the hollowness of one institution of American democracy after another.

Harris wasn't wearing a black ski mask, carrying an oversized papier-mache puppet or locking arms in a street-level traffic blockade. But the symbolic weight of her action was huge. It meant the state was going to dis-

regard the reports that thousands of folks - overwhelmingly people of color - had been denied their right to vote on Nov. 7 in a dubiously motivated campaign to weed "felons" and "non-citizens" out of the voter rolls.

It also brought home to millions of people who once thought voting equaled political empowerment that the "Washington Consensus" isn't just about the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and international trade policy.

Harris's signature underscored the determination of our governing class to keep anyone outside their select circle from participating in decisions regarding who governs us and how they are chosen.

The result is a vast mobiliza-

tion during Bush's inauguration ball that almost no one could have predicted in November.

Tens of thousands of people are preparing to converge on Washington on Jan. 20 to protest the turn of events that's putting George W. Bush into office: not just the Republican's war against

non-white voters, but the complicity of the Democrats - and even some civil rights leaders - in letting the results stand.

The range of complaints, motivations and suspicions is large. The common denominators are a

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Special Feature Sections Inside



George W. Bush reveals a stark pro-corporate agenda through his selection of Cabinet picks.



Excerpts from the Seattle National Lawyers Guild on how the police use scare tactics and misinformation to discourage political dissent.

False Police Reports Are Part of Police Strategy

Evidence refutes police claims that protesters are breaking the law

by Tim Ream
Seattle Lawyers Guild

The following story is an excerpt from "Waging War on Dissent," a special report from the Seattle National Lawyer's Guild. The report reveals that police often use a massive misinformation campaign to discredit protesters and discourage political dissent, and that charges against protesters are overwhelmingly dismissed for lack of evidence.

A disturbing trend is developing regarding police pre-emptive response to mass protest. In numerous situations since the protests against the World Trade Organization in Seattle in late 1999, police have issued misinformation claiming unsubstantiated evidence of violent plans by protesters gathering for mass actions. The false information is then used as a pretext for unwarranted police actions.

The misinformation concerning protester plans have ranged from chemical weapons to bomb-making. None of the numerous claims of violent plans have been substantiated. Nonetheless, many media outlets appear to have been predisposed to repeat information provided by police without fact-checking or seeking responses from the organizations accused. The damage to free speech and the mass protest movement has been extensive.

INTRODUCTION

Mass protest of government policies on this continent is at least as old as the property destruction that characterized the Boston Tea Party, involving hundreds of activists in 1773. Since the anti-war protest of the 1960s and anti-nuclear protests of the 1970s, few instances of mass protest have garnered national media attention. That situation changed radically on Nov. 30, 1999 when activists from around the globe shut down meetings of the World Trade Organization (WTO). This story garnered widespread international attention, fueled further by the violent police response to peaceful protesters and the declaration of a no-protest zone.

The Seattle Police Department reputation was damaged severely by officers' lack of control and brutal response in the streets. In the wake of the protests, Seattle Police Chief Norm Stamper quickly resigned. Police departments charged with preventing similar disruptions in their cities since the Seattle actions have scrambled to find ways to prevent mass protest.

A disturbing pattern of response has appeared over the last six months. It is loosely characterized by three steps:

First, police departments - often in conjunction with city government - begin a multi-faceted media campaign designed to make protest organizers appear to be involved in preparations for violence. Police departments have assembled and distributed collections of flyers claiming violence, released videos of protest from other cities, held meetings with individual media organizations and created a mythic notion of an organization dedicated to violence and central to the protest usually identified as "the anarchists" or "the Eugene Anarchists."

Once the public is predisposed to expect violence from activists, the second step in the process involves a specific claim of evidence suggesting an imminent act of violence. These claims will later be retracted, corrected or will simply remain unsubstantiated. They have included claims of stolen bomb-making materials, a bus load of poisonous animals, a factory to produce pep-

were arrested, materials were seized and the warehouse was shut down. The police claimed prior to the raid that they believed that activists were storing C4 explosives. Also, activists were allegedly preparing weapons in the form of acid-filled balloons presumably to throw at the police. The warehouse was claimed to be a staging ground for both producing weapons and preparing a riot.

Police also claim to have arrested people associated with a bus containing small animals, some of which were poisonous. Police claim that these animals were to be used to attack delegates of the RNC.

No C4 explosive was found, nor were any other weapons or acid found. The bus driver transporting the animals



Police use scare tactics and misinformation as part of overall strategy to discourage political dissent, a new report by the Seattle Lawyers Guild finds.

In a later retraction, police admitted that the Molotov cocktail supplies were plastic containers and rags that smelled of solvents. The pepper spray factory was nothing more than a kitchen, and bomb-making materials were limited to simple plastic water pipe. All of these materials are consistent with activities related to the convergence and art projects.

As a result of police action the infrastructure and political messages in the form of signs and puppets were taken by police and did not appear on the streets or in media coverage.

Undoubtedly numerous people stayed home for fear of associating with violent terrorists utilizing bomb-making factories.

MINNEAPOLIS INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANIMAL GENETICISTS - JULY 2000

Several days before the protest was to begin, police claimed that large quantities of ammonium nitrate had been stolen from a nearby storage area and that unidentified protesters were suspected of involvement. On the day of the major march, police claimed that a cyanide bomb had been detonated in a McDonalds restaurant. The FBI called this an act of terrorism and the local anti-protest law enforcement action was placed under federal control.

The next day the federal Drug Enforcement Agency, including hooded officers raided a house where some protest organizing had taken place. Residents were beaten, arrested and taken to a hospital. Computer hard drives and political literature were seized along with less than an ounce of marijuana and a small amount of psychedelics. Police at the raid claimed that an undercover agent had warned that residents at the house wore hunting knives to attack police in the event of an arrest.

Charges on all but one resident have since been dropped. Police announced that they now have no reason to believe that activists were involved in the ammonium nitrate theft. A health department inspector said there was no cyanide threat, the poison being more concentrated in apple seeds than in the smoke bomb that fogged the McDonalds. Needless to say, the retractions did not receive the level of press

See Report, next page



Police use chemical agents on demonstrators. Not only were protesters and bystanders injured, so were police.

per spray, acid filled balloons, a cyanide poisoning or the simple fact that known terrorists have evaded police surveillance and now may be prepared to act without restraint.

The third step in this tactic follows the second closely or simultaneously. It involves a police action publicly justified in the climate of imminent terrorism. It has the effect however, of a prior restraint on free speech and intimidation of those who would speak their mind against their government. Examples have included; seizing art supplies, medical supplies, hard drives and political literature. Potential protesters have been arrested, beaten and had bail set at ridiculously high amounts to hold them past the event around which the protest was scheduled.

RECENT EXAMPLES PHILADELPHIA REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION - AUGUST 2000

The Philadelphia Police Department raided a warehouse where activists were engaged in creating puppets to protest at the Republican National Convention (RNC). Seventy activists

claims to be a pet shop owner.

At the time of this report's release many of those activists remain jailed. Bail has been set at amounts that preclude easy release generally ranging around \$15,000. One activist was held on misdemeanor charges and \$1,000,000 bail subsequently reduced to \$100,000. This has effectively prevented activists from speaking out against the RNC and the subsequent Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Los Angeles.

WASHINGTON, DC INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND/WORLD BANK MEETINGS - APRIL 2000

The day before the mass protest of World Bank and International Monetary Fund meetings in Washington, metropolitan police raided a training and art supply warehouse popularly referred to as a "convergence" space.

Police reports claimed that they found materials for making Molotov cocktails, a laboratory for mass production of pepper spray and bomb-making materials. This, in part, justified arrests that ran to near 1200 people for the week.

THE INDEPENDENT VOICE

The Independent Voice is a collaborative effort of the Independent Media Center with contributions from the Seattle National Lawyers Guild.

The mission of the IMC is to build media democracy by providing progressive, in-depth and accurate coverage of issues which affect all communities. We are a not-for-profit, volunteer-based collective that is independent of any political party or commercial influence.

If you'd like to see more efforts produced by the DC Independent Media Center, please send your donations to Essential Information, PO Box 19405, Washington DC 20036. Make checks payable to Essential Information and

write DC Independent Media Center in the memo line. Or, to make a credit card donation by visiting our web site at www.dc.indymedia.org



DC Peace Activists Say SOA Mission Remains the Same, Despite Name Change

by Gabriel Freeman
DC IMC

Seven peace activists were arrested Jan. 17 as part of a international day of protest against the School of Americas. The day marked the date of the change of name for the to the Western Hemispheric Institute for Security Cooperation.

The school gives combat, paramilitary and counterinsurgency training to soldiers throughout Latin America. Last year, when the House of Representatives came only 14 votes from closing the school down, its supporters instituted a series of paper reforms which included a name change.

"It's like the emperor's new clothes...we know that the new clothes are invisible and the school has not changed," said Father Roy Bourgeois, a Vietnam War veteran, Jesuit priest and founder of SOA Watch.

The SOA Watch called for an international day of action to protest the cosmetic reforms in conjunction with the annual protest near the anniversary of the Jesuit massacre of 1989. Last year's protest saw 3,400 activist commit civil disobedience.

In Washington, DC peace activists marched, sang, prayed and bore witness at Lafayette Square, in front of a White House surrounded by a huge military presence gearing up for the inauguration of George W. Bush.

While puppets and banners flew through the chilling January wind, SOA Watch activists marched through the bleachers and reviewing stand built to celebrate the coronation of Bush. The irony that security forces shadowed the demonstrators to the point of looking like a military escort seemed to be lost on the spectators.

Simultaneously at Ft. Benning, GA, four activists attempted to block the road into the base with a group lockdown using lockboxes made out of PVC pipe. The activists are Rebecca Johnson, Laurel Paget-Seekins, Jole McGreevy, and Joseph Floyd.

Three more were arrested at the gate attempting to carry a baby coffin onto the base for the reopening ceremony. They were



Creativity in Action

Internet Broadcasting	Information Architecture
Analogue Recording	Graphic Design & Internet Development
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The Conceptium Group, DC's technology collective, is opening membership in its Adams Morgan studio to free-thinking individuals with creative vision in music, art and technology projects.

Classes forming for February 1.

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Becky Karasack, Rebecca Mantey and Rebecca Johnson's mother, Deborah Meem.

Both Johnson and Paget-Seekins have been given ban and bar orders at SOA before and now face up to six months and a \$5,000 fine. Johnson is in the 17th day of a month long juice fast and vigil at the gates of the school. Over 58 activists have served a total of more than thirty years in federal prison including former Congressional Medal of Honor winner Charlie Liteky of Veterans for Peace, currently serving one year for violating the "ban and bar orders" for trespassing

twice on Ft. Benning.

SOA alumni include Roberto D'aubisson, former death squad commander, minister of the army, founder of the right-wing Arena party and the presumed mastermind behind the death of Archbishop Oscar Romero in 1981; Gen. Manuel Noriega, former dictator of Panama; Gen Hector Gramajo, architect of the "model villages" campaign against the indigenous people's of Guatemala; and General Hugo Banzer.

Perhaps most terrifying of all is the genocide
See SOA, page 8

Report, from previous page

coverage of the original actions. Discussion of the ethics of animal genetics received little discussion.

TACOMA KAISER ALUMINUM LOCK-OUT OF STEELWORKERS - MARCH 2000

In the wake of the successful alliance built between labor and environmentalists in Seattle, an action was planned in Tacoma to support the locked-out United Steel Workers of America. The Direct Action Network, Steelworkers and more than a dozen other groups allied to call for a weekend of actions. As that weekend approached, police warned the press and community leaders of the violence that was likely. They claimed that "anarchists from Eugene were missing" and actions at the Kaiser plant could start a chain reaction and "blow up the whole port of Tacoma."

In this case, initial scare tactics were sufficient. Steelworker leadership backed out of the alliance one week before the actions and the protest fell apart. No mass labor-environment action coalition has happened since.

EUGENE, OREGON EUGENE ACTIVE EXISTENCE - JUNE 2000

A six-week anarchist conference was the subject of numerous police press releases concerning alleged threats of violence and the precautions the Eugene Police Department employed to avert trouble. Police distributed to the media a portfolio of dozens of flyers spanning five years that they claimed revealed protesters' violent threats. They created a video simulation of a dummy police officer burned by a police-constructed firebomb that anarchists might use.

Two days before the final planned march, police arrested two young men for allegedly burning a truck. They are currently being held on \$900,000 bail and face 15 to 86 years in prison if convicted.

CONCLUSIONS

Mass media and public perceptions are being systematically manipulated by police departments and other government agencies faced with upcoming mass protests in their cities. These

manipulations are designed to squelch protest and thereby the message of dissent. A common thread in the current series of nation-wide protests is a sense that control of government is no longer in the hands of common people. Governments are effectively squashing the challenge inherent in this message.

Editorial pages and conversations on the street are full of critiques that protesters are not clear about what they stand for and seem more interested in violence than meaningful change. This is as clear a sign as any that protester voices have been effectively silenced and police positioning of protesters is carrying the day.

In addition, activists are scared. Anyone who has been involved in the mass protest movement through a major event of the last six months has friends who have been brutalized at the hands of the system. Of the nearly 2,500 protest arrests that have happened since Nov. 30, 1999, more than three-quarters have had all charges dropped and only a small percentage of arrests have resulted in convictions.

These facts notwithstanding, there is little

national debate on police strong-arm tactics. The reason seems clear. Despite the injustice activists face for speaking their beliefs, the public allows these police tactics because they have been made to fear activists. Unfortunately, the evidence for their fear is the result of misinformation by these same police agencies.

The costs to police agencies since Seattle are minimal. No chief has been pressured to resign, no officer has been charged with misbehavior and requests for special appropriations in the millions of dollars for gear and overtime have been granted.

When the full range of political dialogue is no longer tolerated by the government, it will not simply disappear. With debate stifled, energy for change will instead transform and move underground. Evidence of a growing movement of covert acts of sabotage indicates that the movement underground is picking up steam.

Copies of the complete *Waging War on Dissent* report can be obtained by contacting the Seattle National Lawyers Guild at wtolegal@yahoo.com or (202) 405-4651.

W. REVEALS



DUBYA'S APPOINTEES

Name: JOHN ASHCROFT

A Capitol Hill crusader for tougher mandatory-minimum sentencing laws, Ashcroft also blocked efforts to end the disparity between crack and powder cocaine penalties, and to address racial profiling.

EVANS



Capitol Hill's Top Drug War Hawk: Where drug policy and Constitutional rights are concerned, John Ashcroft "has one of the worst records on Capitol Hill," according to DRCNet. Sen. Ashcroft was a key sponsor of 1999's narrowly defeated Methamphetamine Anti-Proliferation Act, which would have outlawed drug-related discussions on the Internet, and allowed police to conduct secret searches—provisions that DRCNet says, "violate the spirit of the First and Fourth Amendments."

Confederacy Nostalgia: John Ashcroft has also drawn fire for his apparent sympathy for the Confederacy in the US Civil War. The media watchdog group Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting (www.fair.org) cites his contribution to the Southern Partisan, a white separatist magazine based in South Carolina.

In 1998, the following endorsement from Sen. Ashcroft appeared in the Southern Partisan: "Your magazine...helps set the

ASHCROFT



record straight. You've got a heritage of doing that, of defending Southern patriots like [Robert E.] Lee, [Stonewall] Jackson and [Jefferson] Davis... We've all got to stand up and speak...or else we'll be taught that these people were giving their lives, subscribing their sacred fortunes and their honor to some perverted agenda."

FAIR charges that Ashcroft "was endorsing a publication that defends slavery, white separatism, apartheid and David Duke; a

publication that celebrates the assassination of Abraham Lincoln..."

FAIR cites a series of quotes from Southern Partisan articles that said Southern slave-owners sought "to further the slaves' peace and happiness," called Abraham Lincoln a "consummate conniver, manipulator and a liar," referred to "the sinister Emancipation Proclamation" as "an invitation to the slaves to rise against their masters," characterized Lincoln assassin John Wilkes Booth as "not only sane, but sensible,"

NORTON



praised former KKK Grand Wizard David Duke as "a Populist spokesperson for a recapturing of the American ideal," blasted feminism as a "revolt against god," charged the University of Georgia "promotes perversion" by sponsoring gay and lesbian programs, hailed AIDS as "a sign of God's wrath," dissed Miami as full of "cocaine-pushing trigger-happy Colombians," and proclaimed that non-whites "have no temperament for democracy."

Southern Partisan senior advisors have included Pat Buchanan and Boyd Cathey—who simultaneously served as editorial advisor to the Holocaust-revisionist Journal of Historical Review. The magazine also sells t-shirts with Lincoln's image over the words "sic semper tyrannis" ("ever thus to tyrants")—John Wilkes Booth's cry as he fled the Ford Theatre after shooting Lincoln. Timothy McVeigh was wearing this t-shirt when he was arrested for the Oklahoma City bombing.

O'NEILL



Name: GALE NORTON

What does the Interior Secretary do? Oversees the agency charged with stewardship of 500 million acres of federal land, including the Bureau of Indian Affairs, rescuing endangered species and managing

the nation's parks.

During her time in Washington and in Colorado, Norton has been an advocate for less federal control over environmental issues and for government working cooperatively with business to solve environmental problems.

She, like Bush, has backed opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil exploration and has often called for mixed uses of publicly owned natural resources (i.e., allowing miners and oil companies to exploit the land).

Since Bush's announcement, environmentalists have strongly criticized her while big business has been celebrating. Members of the conservative free-trade, anti-federal regulation think tank Cato

PAIGE



Institute were "popping Champagne" celebrating her appointment, the New York Times reported. However Carl Pope, executive director of the Sierra Club thought otherwise: "Gale Norton would be a natural disaster as interior secretary. Norton is the oil, mining and timber industry's choice. She favors increasing the commercial and environmentally destructive development of our national parks, forests and wild lands."

Oil industry's view of Norton: "Long an advocate of personal property rights, Norton is expected to be far more open to oil and gas exploration on federal lands than her Democratic predecessor, Bruce Babbitt," reports the Houston Chronicle in an article titled, "Houston-Area Oil Firms Like Choice for Interior Secretary."

On opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil exploration: "The belief is that there are huge amounts of oil available in that area. That is an issue that I cannot comment on in terms of my own actions," Norton said after Bush appointed

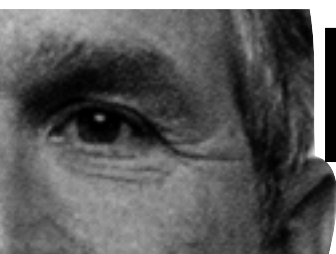
POWELL



her. "But I do support the president(-elect) in the

DUBYA'S APPOINTEES

...AND THE DECK IS



HIS HAND

WALL OF SHAME

position that he has taken during his campaign." However as a member of the Reagan administration, she unsuccessfully tried to persuade the Democratically-controlled Senate to open the area for oil exploration.

Do corporations have a right to pollute? Yes says Norton: "We might even go so far as to recognize a homesteading right to pollute or make noise in an area," Norton wrote in a conservative law journal.

On state vs. federal control: "Just as free markets triumphed over communism," Norton said, "we are in a time ... when we can be part of the intellectual battle that shifts power from Washington back to states and local communities."

Program and the National Library of Medicine. HHS employs 63,100 people and has an annual budget of \$423 billion.

Why conservatives are chipper: Thompson slashed property taxes by \$1.2 billion—the largest tax cut in state history. His attack on the welfare system made Wisconsin the first state in the nation to end the entitlement, required work and placed time limits on benefits. He fought and subverted teachers' unions in helping to bring the first and most widespread school-voucher pilot program -- including religious institutions -- to pass.

Thoughts on federal government: repeated references to the nation's capital as "Disneyland East," where "common sense cannot flourish in an America where Washington calls all the shots." Ironically, Thompson will head one of the largest federal agencies.

Healthy fiscal habits? The Wisconsin governor received campaign contributions from tobacco interests and has been criticized for delaying Wisconsin's entry into the lawsuit against tobacco companies.

Forecast of follies: A firm proponent of distributing power to the states in running the country's largest civilian agency. A HHS secretary has broad powers over the inclusion of abortion within federal health programs, and Thompson's moral bent could significantly threaten access.

Why Blacks and Latinos are pissed: New Jersey has been scrutinized for years regarding racial profiling policies that continue to see police pulling over minority drivers and searching them for drugs at a far higher rate than whites. But until recently, Whitman refused to even acknowledge the problem; in 1998 she said, "There is no such thing as racial profiling." Additionally, the NJ Legislative Black and Latino Caucus cite Whitman's inadequate funding for reclaiming

THOMPSON



polluted lands or supporting city parks as evidence of environmental racism.

Ulterior motives: Whitman's green-washing of business constituted the core of her environmental agenda. Her policies pushed "regulatory reform," hampering the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's power to monitor and enforce pollution standards. Her vow to make New Jersey "open for business" sought to entice capital through tax cuts and a lessening of the state's environmental regulations.

The darling of deregulation: Whitman relied on polluters to monitor their own emissions. She eliminated revenues from fines as a source of DEP funding, encouraging polluters to settle disputes outside of the courtroom. While fewer fines were issued, DEP-initiated lawsuits plummeted by 76 percent in her first term alone. Whitman axed over 700 employees from the DEP, including

RICE



Name: TOMMY G. THOMPSON

Qualifications: Having held public office continually for 34 years, Thompson is the nation's longest-serving governor. Elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly 1966; Served as minority leader and assistant minority leader Elected Governor of Wisconsin 1986; Reelected 1990, 1994, and 1998. He had considered a run at the 2000 GOP presidential campaign, and served as chairman of the GOP's platform committee at this year's party convention in Philadelphia.

His position's profile: The Department of Health and Human Services seeks to protect public health through a large bureaucracy of 12 division, including the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration and the division that oversees Medicare and Medicaid. Programs within the agency include Head Start, the State Children's Health Insurance

RUMSFELD



Name: CHRISTIE TODD WHITMAN

Qualifications: Elected in 1993 as New Jersey's first female governor.

Position: Environmental Protection Agency, a "cabinet-level" post that is charged with enforcing federal anti-pollution laws, protecting the environment, conducting studies and gathering data. It has a \$7.25 billion annual budget and more than 18,000 employees.

WHITMAN



abolishing the environmental prosecutor's office and replacing it with a business-friendly ombudsman, eased the permit process for developers and eliminated more than 1,000 chemicals from its right-to-know list.

WALL OF SHAME

FULLY LOADED...

An anarchist's perspective on the election

NO MATTER WHO YOU VOTE FOR, THE GOVERNMENT WINS

by Jenka Soderberg
DC IMC

Through the process of appointing George W. Bush to the presidency, the outright corruption and arbitrary unfairness of the system was made transparent to people around the world.

Many people are now beginning to question the injustice inherent in such a system, but wonder what are the alternatives. Those of us who participated in the actions against the World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund, World Bank and others have some idea of what the alternatives could look like.

We were creating it during those few days of autonomy and reclamation, demanding the freedom that has been denied to us for so long. We took back streets, created spaces for teaching and medical clinics, ate free, healthy, organic food and found ways to work together so that every person could contribute their experiences and discover their unique talents. Sound utopian? It is not a utopia, it is a working, developing reality. And it is a movement based not in idealistic visions of some distant future, but in using past experiences to learn how

to survive and thrive in the present.

Electing new leaders, new bosses to oppress us, no matter who they are, is never going to solve our problems. For every time we give up our personal authority to someone outside ourselves, we are contributing to our own oppression.

Every form of government is a form of tyranny. You have as much right to live free as you have to breathe. But we are taught that we have only the right to choose one oppressor or another! Surely you can see through this elementary ruse and see that you are being played for a fool!

During the protests against the presidential inauguration, you may see anarchists carrying a black flag. Black is the color of negation. Negation of all flags, of government, of nations which turn human beings against each other and deny the unity of all humankind.

Black also presents a feeling of outrage and anger at the crimes committed against humanity in the name of allegiance to one state or another. We are opening the way to our liberation through the negation of our oppression. Neither the election of new oppressors nor the acceptance of illegitimate authority will make us free. The only way to be free is to have the courage to stand up and live as if we already were.

Department and Freedom Plaza (14th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue).

"Guild lawyers and other pro-gressive attorneys must take action to remind the government that the constitutional right to demonstrate which is fully protected by the First Amendment does not disappear because of security concerns," said Arthur Kinoy, veteran counsel for civil rights era protesters and Rutgers University Law professor.

"This represents a continuing crackdown on free speech... Since Seattle, the government has behaved as if any expression of political dissent were a securi-

Mainstream media misses MLK message

KING SHOULD NOT BE OVERSHADOWED BY INAUGURATION

by Tammy Rhinestone
DC IMC

Monday, Jan. 15 was the annual march in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. one of the biggest annual political parades in the United States. Not only does this parade celebrate the birthday of King, it reminds everyone of a dream he had for this country and the world.

Sheila Boyer, a local resident, said the march to her "is a time for unity, a long time dream that Martin Luther King had... that everyone's dream can become a reality and it is a time for everyone to come together for peace."

In the past, this event was covered by corporate media from all over the country as an inspirational and feel-good story. This year, however, the corporate press barely covered the event: There was hardly any video cameras, television personalities, or newspaper reporters.

Instead, the nightly news showed an emotional outgoing President Clinton accepting the keys to Washington, conveying an image of Clinton as a president that has done the most for this city.

Tragically, the mainstream media focused the

attention of King's birthday away from the annual parade and march onto a last-ditch effort to honor Clinton.

What's different this year is that the inauguration is only five days away and people are coming out to protest the injustice of the presidential election.

If mainstream reporters were present they would have had an opportunity to photograph and talk with groups of people mobilizing to protest Bush's inauguration. The DC Statehood Green Party, the Independent Media Center and the Justice Action Movement were in attendance, bringing together the dream of a world without corruption to the forefront.

The lack of mainstream media coverage seems all too calculated and it remains to be seen how the corporate press will cover the inauguration. Will they film the protesters, will they give them a voice, will the outrage over injustice be heard across the waves of the Federal Communications Commission?

There is a dream alive that unites all of the global action movements, and highlights justice and equality for everyone.

The energy that King generated during the civil rights movement is not forgotten, and the momentum that has been regenerated over the past two years is alive.

Perhaps 12-year-old Jamia Evans said it best that day: "It means everything, it's not explainable through words, it just makes people come together."

Fight, continued from page 1

tions on stilts, puppets signs and packs leaving a policy of deliberate vagueness which threatens to give officers unfettered discretion in searching citizens persons and belongings.

By giving "no clear directions" the police are "trying to prevent a lawful and orderly protest before it happens," according to Mara Verheyden-Hilliard of the Partnership for Civil Justice. The lawsuit seeks to force the police to spell out what will and will not be banned beforehand.

Other restrictions (such as no amplified sound unlike the Bush supporters gathering in the same place) discriminate against the free speech rights of the International Action Center, which has already obtained legal permits for McPherson Square, the Justice

ty threat. To the contrary, the crackdown and militarization of our streets are the real threat to democracy," said National Lawyer's Guild President Bruce Nestor.

A similar legal strategy in Los Angeles resulted in a court order which prevented the LAPD from raiding the conver-

gence space as in Philadelphia and Washington DC (A16).

For more information on the lawsuit, vital legal preparation and trainings, as well as what is being done this time to protect the right to protest, check out: www.justiceonline.org

CAN YOU STEAL A FRAUDULENT ELECTION?

Even with the shenanigans in Florida, the real scandal of Election 2000 was the almost complete agreement of the major candidates on the issues of the day. What follows is short reminder of what you didn't vote on even if you bothered:

THEY BOTH SUPPORT: corporate style capitalism, the IMF, troops and advisors stationed in over 100 countries, massive nuclear arsenals, Star Wars, NAFTA, concentration of media ownership, the incarceration of over 2 million people, the war on drugs, billions a year to Israel, Colombia & other repressive governments, scab labor during strikes, the death penalty, & the "2-party system."

THEY BOTH OPPOSE: sensibly reducing greenhouse emissions, a living wage amendment, the right to decent housing, full gay & lesbian equality, access for third parties to debates and media, cutting military spending, free education, socialized medicine, birth control and abortion on demand, and reparations for slavery.



Power, continued from page 1

feeling that the "democratic" election process failed and a sense of betrayal by this country's political class.

What happened in Florida cuts deeply into folks' belief in the legitimacy of the system. J20, the slang term for Jan. 20 within the inner circle of left activism, has the potential to become a radicalizing moment for millions of Americans, turning cynicism into activism.

Perhaps it will force them to confront the worthlessness of the electoral process. It may just compel them to consider a different political model in which community-based organizing around issues that politicians ignore replaces personality politics built around interchangeable candidates.

Many activists, committed to direct action (and already deeply cynical if not totally opposed to electoral politics) were inclined at first to sit this one out. And it's fair to ask what dimpled chads have to do with the protest movement that's been building over the last year.

Wasn't the Seattle convergence against the World Trade Organization about global trade and its effect on American workers? And weren't the Republican and Democratic convention protests last summer about specific issues like the racist prison industrial complex, the death sentence against Mumia Abu-Jamal and the corporate war on the poor, rather than about candidates?

Yes, but that's not the whole story. This movement has always been about disenfranchisement - about communities' and individuals' loss of control over their lives to an increasingly unaccountable elite.

What drew "Teamsters and Turtles" together in Seattle and Washington, DC, was a common understanding that global economic decisions today are made for the sole benefit of multinational corporations, and that the democratic process has been skillfully manipulated to stifle any objections folks may have to the

results.

A growing realization that poverty, racism and police brutality are fundamental to our current political system brought about a historic coalition between poverty advocates, people of color and anti-state revolutionaries in Philadelphia and Los Angeles.

J20 continues this process by bringing together civil rights and voters' rights activists with these earlier coalitions. Those of us who see the post-Seattle movement as the seedbed of a radical new politics have two opportunities here.

First, we need to challenge folks in the streets of Washington to move beyond the ballot box and focus instead on taking power back for our communities.

A post-election editorial by ColorLines editor Bob Wing calls upon readers to fight the Democratic Party's move to the right and to "support or shape third parties that truly represent our interests and include our peoples." To do so "depends on our ability to form mass, independent racial justice organizations and to build alliances with other progressive forces both inside and outside the electoral realm."

But if it's in our power to form these mass organizations and alliances, why waste time, commitment and resources on political parties whose sole purpose is to win elections, not work for change? Why not choose instead to take power from the state and the financial and political elites and give it back to our communities?

The community alliances formed when we reach across lines of class, color, gender and sexual preference are precious. They should not be wasted trying to influence a political-economic system that profits from keeping us apart. Instead, we need to work to turn these alliances into the basis for a new political agenda that doesn't just speak to human need, but is centered in it.

That means returning political



American voters express outrage over the presidential election outcome.

power to local communities - city neighborhoods, campuses, farming districts, cooperatives -- where every member's voice can be heard and the conditions of everyday living dictate the policies and projects we work for with other communities.

This is nothing new; over the last 30 years, the most effective efforts of movements from gay rights to environmentalism to the struggles against racism and sexism have been based in local efforts that confront authority directly. Since Seattle, we're discovering the global struggles against the IMF and World Bank can be organized at the local level all over the world.

J20 marks the beginning a new struggle against our rotten political system. Instead of relying on national "leaders" who are potentially as arrogant and alienating as the system we're working against, this one will keep its center in local communities. Second, we must continue to organize in a way that empowers people rather than alienating them.

In the post-Seattle move-

ment, politics is built on practice. Giving everyone a voice means decision-making by consensus, not by self-selecting elites. By keeping it local, decisions are made where they matter, not where someone can control us; and working in federation with other communities, prevents us from surrendering control to some "higher authority."

J20 is an opportunity for us to take the message of this way of organizing to a huge segment of the American public that is fed up with politics that always comes down to a meaningless choice between two Southern white males.

Many of the people at Bush's inauguration will merely want to gain a hearing for campaign finance reform, reform of the electoral process, and a return to something resembling an electoral system that people can feel confident in. But on J20, we will introduce another possibility into this discussion.

Decry, continued from page 1

voting machines that tabulate a higher percentage of votes.

The *Washington Post* reported that one in every 16 ballots in black areas of Alabama were thrown out for various reasons; in Chicago one in six ballots were tossed in black neighborhoods. In Jacksonville's black precincts, one out of every three ballots were thrown out -- four times the rate of nearby white neighborhoods. While these may be extreme examples, a study by the *Scripps Howard News Service* found that in 1996, ballots were disqualified in largely black and Latino areas at twice the national rate.

"Inefficient machines diminish everybody's vote, but you find them more in poor and black areas," Jackson said. "And then there's the race problem, the over-vote. Why were thousands more over-votes cast in African-American precincts in Duval County than in white precincts?"

Analyzing the thousands of uncounted votes in Florida, the *Miami Herald* determined Gore may have actually received 23,000 more votes in Florida than Bush who

was awarded the state's electoral votes and thus the presidency.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has started investigating many of the charges levied by Jackson and others about faulty voting machines, inaccurate voting records and intimidation tactics used to prevent blacks from entering the polls.

"The enormity of inequities is astounding," said Mary Frances Berry, commission chairperson.

A *Newsday* article outlined dozens of charges ranging from police ticketing black voters for loitering while they stood in long lines waiting to vote to police setting up checkpoints at the polls to intimidate voters. Hundreds if not thousands of legally registered voters were also barred from voting since the state erroneously believed them to be convicted felons. In Florida, citizens with a felony conviction are barred from voting. Among black men, one in three will never be allowed to vote again under this Reconstruction-era law.

While there has been little talk of overturning the law barring felons from voting, civil rights and civil liberties groups have filed suit

against the state of Florida for what happened on election day. On Jan. 10 the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), The Advancement Project, American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and People for the American Way Foundation filed a joint lawsuit to eliminate discriminatory and unequal voting policies and practices from Florida's electoral system.

"It is ironic that the Supreme Court, in rendering its decision regarding the election, cited the Equal Protection clause of the U.S. Constitution. That amendment was adopted to protect recently freed slaves, yet thousands of African Americans were denied the vote in Florida," said Theodore M. Shaw, Associate Director-Counsel, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

"That is why we are going to court -- to ensure that the Equal Protection clause serves its original purpose. Whatever other purposes it might serve, it certainly should serve its original purpose - to protect African American voters from disenfranchisement."

cidal maniac General Ephraim Rios Montt of Guatemala, dictator for only 18 months in the mid 1980s, who still managed to wipe out over 350 native villages and 19,043 (official government numbers) indigenous people in his attempt to destroy the

guerrillas the fish by draining the ocean. Rios Montt, an evangelical pastor, managed to kill or "make disappear" 10 times as many people as Pinochet in 18 months (against Pinochet's 18 years) and believes that God chose him to lead Guatemala, kill all commu-

nists — since those who do not believe in evangelical Christianity must be communists and it was therefore God's will to wipe them out. Rios Montt is still the head of the governing party and is the leader of that party in parliament.

Other massacres by

SOA graduates include the El Mozote massacre in El Salvador in 1981, La Joya, and numerous atrocities currently occurring in Colombia, such as the gruesome Trujillo "chain-saw" massacres in which at least 107 prisoners were tortured and killed.

For more info on School

HAIL TO THE THIEF

INAUGURATION PROTESTS

JOIN THE COUNTER-INAUGURAL PROTESTS

and balls to jeer, razz,
and ridicule America's #1 fraud, GEORGE W. BUSH!

COUNTER-INAUGURAL PROTESTS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

1:00 pm, Lockheed Martin Salute to Dick Cheney, Washington Convention Center, 900 Ninth St., NW, ticket required. Complete with rockets' red glare.

8:00 pm, NRA Black Tie & Boots Ball, Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 266 Woodley Road, NW, ticket and cowboy hat required. Six-shooters optional.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

8:30 am, Justice Action Movement March, 12th and G St., Metro Center. March to Penn. Ave.

9:00 am, Day of Outrage (wear black), 14th and U St., March to Persing Square, 15th and Penn Ave.

10:00 am, the Voter March & Rally, Dupont Circle, With Granny D and Michael Moore! 11: am, Stilt Walker march to Penn Ave. to line along parade route.

10:00 am, International Action Center Rally, Penn. and 14th St., radicals, anarchists, and the enraged.

10:00 am, the Shadow Inauguration, Stanton Park, 4th/Maryland, to the Supreme Court, 12: Penn Ave.

1:00 pm, Presidential Inaugural Parade, Penn. Avenue. Join the crowds to Hail to the Thief!

3:00 pm, Unity March, citizens regroup, the Ellipse.
3:30 pm, march to Malcolm X Park, 16th/Florida.

FOR ALL INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.J2.ORG.

2 2/462-6459

Welcome Center, at the Kaffa House, 1212 U St.

COUNTER-INAUGURAL BALLS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

9:00 pm, Spoken Truth, Kaffa House, 1212 U St., Live music: Moya, Parker Brothers Blues Band, Youth Hip-Hop. Free and donations welcome.

9:00 pm, Jazz for Justice!, The Saloon, 12 7 U St., Live jazz, good vibes. Free and donations welcome.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

9:00 pm, The Counter-Inaugural Dance Party, Club 2K9, 2 9 8th St. NW, DJ Sever, Green, MC Raff, and others, \$1 *, reserve tickets at www.j2.org.

9:00 pm, Auctioneer's Ball, Insomnia, 714 6th St. NW, punk, indie rock and an all around WILD TIME! \$1 *, reserve tickets at www.j2.org. Special guests Uncle Scam, Dingleberry Dynasty, CONGREGATION.

9: pm, JAH Provides Justice, Reggae Show, Kaffa House, 1212 U St., \$1 *, reserve tickets at www.j2.org.

9: pm, IndyMedia Party, Badlands, 1415 22nd St. NW, featuring DJ Democracy, video screenings of the day's protests and indymedia films. \$1 .

*All proceeds benefit the Justice Action Movement. All tickets also available at the door. (Any additional monies will go to bidding on access to corrupt lawmakers who are more responsive to corporations than the concerns of the citizens they profess to represent. But more likely to cover the costs of organizing.)

Visit the Welcome Center, open 9am-1 pm, Thursday only, for info, workshops and teach-ins.



For complete, non-corporate media coverage, visit WWW.DC.INDYMEDIA.ORG

of the Americas Watch, check out www.soaw.org and find out what the SOA Watch is doing near you.

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